



Crop Weather Report

Issue: 09-02

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Monthly: Nov-Mar

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For the Month Ending:
Feb. 28, 2009

Weather Summary

Most of Montana received below normal moisture for the month ending February 28th. Swan Lake received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 2.59 inches. Kalispell had a record snowfall of 6.5 inches on the 26th, breaking the previous record of 3.7 inches set in 1919. Temperatures during the month of February were mostly above normal. Highs ranged from 40s to 60s and lows ranged from negative teens to positive teens. Grass Range, Roundup, and Hardin shared the high temperature of 64 degrees, and Wisdom had the low temperature of minus 19 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus, at 83 percent, is slightly above last month's 81 percent and much higher than last year's 34 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 62 percent, below last month's 67 percent but above last year's 24 percent.

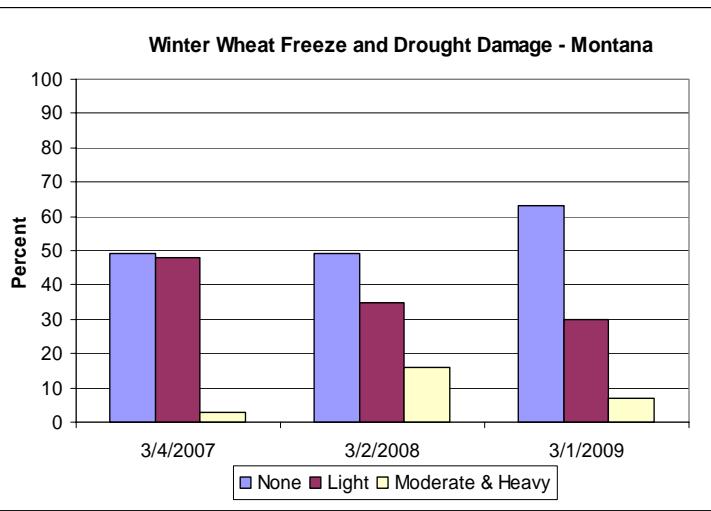
The weather outlook for March 9th through March 15th is for below normal temperatures and below normal precipitation both east and west of the continental divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 30s to the mid 40s and lows ranging from zero degrees to the mid 20s.

According to the NRCS, snowpack on February 1st was 90 percent of average and 89 percent of last year west of the continental divide and 97 percent of average and 98 percent of 2007 east of the divide. Mountain snow water content statewide was 93 percent of average and 91 percent of last year. Spring streamflow is forecasted to average 80 to 94 percent.

Livestock Report

Livestock birthing for both cattle and sheep are behind last year. Twenty-seven percent of pastures are closed for grazing compared to 16 percent last year and 36 percent last month.

Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Livestock Birthing			
Calving Completed	20	5	26
Lambing Completed	9	2	17
Livestock Grazing			
Open	28	20	62
Difficult	45	44	22
Closed	27	36	16
Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed			
Cattle and Calves	94	94	96
Sheep and Lambs	96	95	96

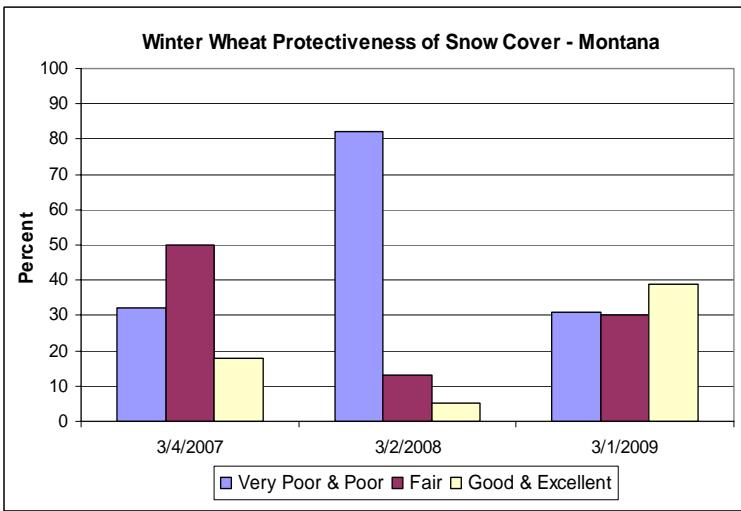


Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Topsoil Moisture			
Very Short	2	3	20
Short	15	16	46
Adequate	78	77	33
Surplus	5	4	1
Subsoil Moisture			
Very Short	14	10	33
Short	24	23	43
Adequate	60	65	23
Surplus	2	2	1

Field Crops Report

Little wheat has suffered from freeze, drought, or wind this winter. Snow cover declined slightly from last month with 39 percent good to excellent compared to 44 percent the previous month. Winter wheat conditions declined since last month but are better than last year. Fifty-nine percent of winter wheat is good to excellent compared to 68 percent last month and 35 percent last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
Winter Wheat			
Very Poor	1	1	3
Poor	4	3	13
Fair	36	28	49
Good	55	59	32
Excellent	4	9	3
Winter Wheat- Wind Damage			
None	65	69	67
Light	27	26	25
Moderate	6	4	6
Heavy	2	1	2
Winter Wheat- Freeze and Drought Damage			
None	63	56	49
Light	30	41	35
Moderate	6	3	14
Heavy	1	0	2
Winter Wheat- Protectiveness of Snow Cover			
Very Poor	7	6	68
Poor	24	11	14
Fair	30	39	13
Good	27	24	4
Excellent	12	20	1



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents
USDA County Service Centers

Weather Information for the month ending 02/28/2009

Station	Temperature				Precipitation February			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
NORTHWEST										
Alberton	55	13	32	+4	1.31	+0.54	170	9.84	+5.06	206
Anaconda	59	8	32	+4	0.26	-0.20	57	5.43	+2.09	163
Clinton	49	10	31	+7	0.54	-0.55	50	5.00	-1.72	74
Corvallis	59	11	34	+3	0.65	+0.11	120	4.13	+0.57	116
Creston	46	6	28	+2	1.48	+0.29	124	6.81	-0.08	99
Deer Lodge	56	0	29	+2	0.18	-0.10	64	2.54	+0.60	131
Drummond	50	3	29	+3	0.54	-0.07	89	5.33	+1.57	142
Hamilton	60	12	33	+3	0.77	-0.06	93	6.13	+1.25	126
Kalispell	43	0	29	+2	0.96	-0.19	83	6.67	-0.03	100
Missoula	48	13	32	+3	0.65	-0.12	84	5.01	+0.23	105
Olney	45	-3	23	-1	0.89	-1.12	44	9.82	-0.67	94
Polson	51	3	30	-1	0.52	-0.36	59	4.71	-0.67	88
St Ignatius	55	3	31	+0	1.13	+0.36	147	6.76	+1.73	134
Seeley Lake	49	-3	27	+3	1.01	-0.64	61	12.82	+2.54	125
Sula	55	-5	29	+3	0.28	-0.52	35	4.95	-0.12	98
Superior	57	14	34	+2	1.72	+0.58	151	8.56	+1.49	121
Swan Lake	49	1	28	+3	2.59	+0.21	109	13.01	-1.61	89
Thompson Falls	51	15	34	+1	1.49	-0.55	73	10.79	-0.95	92
West Glacier	43	0	27	+1	1.90	-0.29	87	13.08	-0.71	95
NORTH CENTRAL										
Chester	48	-14	21	-2	0.52	+0.26	200	4.94	+3.07	264
Chinook	50	-14	18	-2	0.06	-0.26	19	3.13	+0.65	126
Choteau	62	-10	29	+1	0.33	+0.14	174	1.86	+0.44	131
Cut Bank	56	-16	26	+3	0.25	-0.03	89	0.89	-0.98	48
Ft Assinniboine	44	-13	21	-1	0.12	-0.21	36	3.95	+1.39	154
Fort Benton	62	-7	27	-2	0.17	-0.22	44	3.41	+0.62	122
Goldbutte	59	-6	24	+0	0.24	-0.09	73	2.44	+0.03	101
Harlem	42	-13	20	-3	0.11	-0.21	34	3.00	+0.93	145
Havre	41	-13	21	-2	0.10	-0.26	28	2.65	+0.25	110
Malta	46	-12	19	+1	0.26	-0.03	90	3.67	+1.33	157
Rudyard	42	-18	21	-3	0.14	-0.04	78	3.30	+1.90	236
Shelby	59	-13	25	+0	0.24	-0.09	73	2.26	-0.01	100
Turner	41	-14	16	-3	0.22	+0.04	122	2.13	+0.29	116
Valier	57	-15	27	+2	0.28	+0.04	117	1.80	+0.01	101
NORTHEAST										
Bredette	39	-11	12	-7	0.20	-0.02	91	4.47	+2.57	235
Culbertson	42	-13	13	-7	0.09	-0.14	39	4.09	+1.93	189
Glasgow	42	-11	16	-4	0.07	-0.19	27	3.04	+0.97	147
Glendive	50	-11	25	+4	0.20	-0.13	61	2.95	+0.34	113
Jordan	48	-10	24	+3	0.07	-0.29	19	3.32	+0.64	124
Nashua	38	-14	16	-8	0.25	+0.06	132	3.62	+1.77	196
Opheim	43	-14	12	-4	0.15	-0.08	65	2.84	+1.11	164
Plentywood	38	-14	11	-8	0.35	+0.04	113	4.37	+2.25	206
St Marie	42	-8	16	-4	0.14	-0.12	54	1.55	-0.52	75
Scobey	40	-14	13	-5	0.43	+0.29	307	4.00	+2.30	235
Sidney	45	-9	17	-5	0.13	-0.23	36	3.59	+0.71	125
Wolf Point	39	-12	15	-6	0.00	-0.25	0	1.79	-0.34	84
CENTRAL										
Cascade	60	0	30	+2	0.22	-0.15	59	2.68	-0.08	97
Grass Range	64	-2	29	+2	0.33	+0.02	106	4.56	+1.30	140
Great Falls	58	-7	30	+5	0.43	-0.08	84	3.66	+0.29	109
Harlowton	61	2	30	+3	0.40	+0.01	103	2.72	+0.12	105
Helena	60	6	34	+8	0.22	-0.16	58	2.63	+0.14	106
Lewistown	53	2	29	+4	0.12	-0.45	21	3.15	-0.93	77
Martinsdale	56	0	30	+3	0.31	-0.01	97	3.05	+0.46	118
Neihart	55	1	28	+1	0.32	-0.34	48	5.33	+0.34	107
Rogers Pass	58	-3	29	+3	0.68	+0.05	108	4.27	+0.24	106
Roundup	64	-5	33	+4	0.30	-0.06	83	3.56	+0.96	137
Ryegate	61	-3	29	+4	0.44	+0.15	152	3.07	+0.53	121
Stanford	63	0	30	+3	0.29	-0.19	60	3.13	-0.32	91
Townsend	62	0	31	+3	0.14	-0.09	61	2.03	+0.10	105
Valentine	53	-6	25	+3	0.15	-0.17	47	3.71	+1.03	138
Wht Sulphur Spr	53	1	28	+3	0.14	-0.24	37	3.59	+0.86	132
SOUTHWEST										
Boulder	55	2	30	+4	0.15	-0.15	50	2.78	+0.49	121
Bozeman	55	1	31	+5	0.38	-0.16	70	3.49	-0.44	89
Butte	51	-1	28	+7	0.12	-0.35	26	2.21	-0.70	76
Dillon	54	10	31	+4	0.16	-0.04	80	1.13	-0.54	68
Ennis	54	5	31	+3	0.36	-0.09	80	2.31	-0.67	78
Lakeview	40	-13	19	+2	0.80	-0.16	83	4.82	-0.73	87
W Yellowstone	46	-4	24	+8	0.68	-1.09	38	7.26	-2.11	77
Wisdom	49	-19	21	+4	0.23	-0.28	45	4.36	+0.99	129
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Billings	59	6	35	+6	0.36	-0.22	62	4.12	+0.07	102
Cooke City	51	-3	29	+13	0.34	-1.45	19	3.40	-6.58	34
Gardiner	49	6	31	+3	0.29	-0.04	88	1.99	-0.53	79
Hardin	64	4	34	+6	0.00	-0.35	0	2.91	-0.38	88
Huntley	63	0	32	+6	0.46	-0.02	96	4.74	+1.31	138
Hysham	60	-7	31	+4	0.30	-0.04	88	5.18	+2.12	169
Joliet	61	3	31	+4	0.60	-0.03	95	3.77	-0.47	89
Livingston	59	6	34	+5	0.28	-0.20	58	1.57	-2.02	44
Nye	57	2	33	+3	0.53	-0.05	91	3.90	-0.20	95
Rapeland	63	-5	31	+3	0.50	-0.04	93	3.35	-0.28	92
SOUTHEAST										
Albion	55	-8	28	+7	0.50	+0.19	161	5.81	+3.31	232
Baker	50	-4	23	+1	0.18	-0.26	41	2.58	-0.64	80
Broadus	60	-6	31	+4	0.45	+0.04	110	4.11	+0.90	128
Ekalaka	56	-10	26	+2	0.44	-0.07	86	4.79	+0.78	119
Miles City	57	-8	29	+5	0.04	-0.30	12	2.57	-0.35	88
Plevna	52	-6	23	+0	0.35	-0.09	80	3.64	+0.42	113

Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.